

We claim:

1 1. A data slicer comprising:
2 a first comparator circuit that establishes a first threshold;
3 a second comparator circuit that establishes a second threshold; and
4 a third comparator circuit that establishes a third threshold;
5 wherein the second threshold is greater than the first threshold and less than
6 the third threshold,

7 wherein each of the comparator circuits has an offset, and
8 wherein the first and third comparator circuits have symmetrical offsets.

1 2. The data slicer of claim 1 wherein the first and third comparator circuits
2 have output circuits providing the symmetrical offsets.

1 3. The data slicer of claim 1 wherein each of the first and third comparator
2 circuits includes a load resistor having a center tap and wherein the load resistor
3 center tap of the first comparator circuit is coupled to the load resistor center tap of
4 the third comparator circuit to provide the first and second comparator circuits with
5 symmetrical offsets.

1 4. The data slicer of claim 1 wherein the first and third thresholds are
2 equally spaced from the second threshold.

1 5. The data slicer of claim 1 wherein the comparator circuits are formed
2 from complimentary metal oxide semiconductor devices.

1 6. A data slicer comprising:
2 a first comparator circuit that establishes a first threshold;
3 a second comparator circuit that establishes a second threshold; and
4 a third comparator circuit that establishes a third threshold;
5 wherein the second threshold is greater than the first threshold and less than
6 the third threshold,
7 wherein each of the comparator circuits has an offset, and
8 wherein the first and third comparator circuits have output circuits providing
9 symmetrical offsets.

1 7. The data slicer of claim 6 wherein the output circuit of each of the first
2 and third comparator circuits includes a load resistor having a center tap and wherein
3 the load resistor center tap of the first comparator circuit is coupled to the load
4 resistor center tap of the third comparator circuit to provide the first and second
5 comparator circuits with the symmetrical offsets.

1 8. The data slicer of claim 6 wherein the first and third thresholds are
2 equally spaced from the second threshold.

1 9. The data slicer of claim 6 wherein the comparator circuits are formed
2 from complimentary metal oxide semiconductor devices.

1 10. A data slicer comprising:
2 a first comparator circuit that establishes a first threshold;
3 a second comparator circuit that establishes a second threshold; and
4 a third comparator circuit that establishes a third threshold,
5 wherein the second threshold is greater than the first threshold and less than
6 the third threshold,
7 wherein the first and third comparator circuits each includes a load resistor
8 having a center tap, and
9 wherein the load resistor center tap of the first comparator circuit is coupled to
10 the load resistor center tap of the third comparator circuit.

1 11. The data slicer of claim 10 wherein the first and third thresholds are
2 equally spaced from the second threshold.

1 12. The data slicer of claim 10 wherein the comparator circuits are formed
2 from complimentary metal oxide semiconductor devices.

1 13. An integrated circuit comprising:
2 a substrate of semiconductor material; and
3 a data slicer formed in the semiconductor material, the data slicer including,
4 a first comparator circuit that establishes a first threshold,
5 a second comparator circuit that establishes a second threshold, and
6 a third comparator circuit that establishes a third threshold,

7 wherein the second threshold is greater than the first threshold and less than
8 the third threshold,

9 wherein each of the comparator circuits has an offset, and
10 wherein the first and third comparator circuits have symmetrical offsets.

1 14. The integrated circuit of claim 13 wherein the first and third comparator
2 circuits have output circuits providing the symmetrical offsets.

1 15. The integrated circuit of claim 13 wherein each of the first and third
2 comparator circuits includes a load resistor having a center tap and wherein the load
3 resistor center tap of the first comparator circuit is coupled to the load resistor center
4 tap of the third comparator circuit to provide the first and second comparator circuits
5 with symmetrical offsets.

1 16. The integrated circuit of claim 13 wherein the first and third thresholds
2 of the data slicer are equally spaced from the second threshold.

1 17. The integrated circuit of claim 13 wherein the comparator circuits are
2 formed from complimentary metal oxide semiconductor devices.